

MEETING MINUTES

Finance Committee

April 26, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Time – 7:00P.M.

Members in attendance: Chairman Joanne F. Marden, Cindy Milne, Mary O'Donoghue, Jon S. Stumpf, Richard T. Howe, Paul Fortier, Peggy Kruse and Steve Stapinski.

Also present: Finance Director Anthony Torrisi, Conservation Chairman Don Cooper, Conservation Commission member Alexandra Driscoll and Conservation Director Bob Douglas.

CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITION

Mr. Cooper distributed copies of a GIS map outlining two parcels of land to be voted on in Article 55 at Town Meeting. Mr. Cooper began his presentation by stating that by approving Article 55, this would not only provide practical access to Town owned Conservation land but would add lake front property as well. He added that if Article 55 is approved there is the possibility of two additional properties being donated to the Town alongside the two parcels in the article. Committee members were informed that the surrounding neighborhood is in favor of the Town purchasing the lots. However, it was also noted that the residents of Willard Street have expressed doubt to Mr. Cooper as to whether there would be any donations due to feelings of ill will toward the Town from past legal issues.

Mr. Cooper identified a State grant to Committee members that would reimburse the Town 50% of the cost of acquiring the two parcels. He added that he was optimistic about obtaining this grant and that the appraisal is currently in process. Furthermore, he noted that the Conservation Commission was expecting the appraisal report the following day, April 27th. Lengthy discussion followed regarding how the appraisal number might affect the number requested at Town Meeting. Due to a State requirement that the article must be approved at Town Meeting prior to grant approval, Mr. Cooper was asked what would happen to the 50% reimbursement if the grant were to be approved by the State. Ms. Marden responded that most likely the Town would receive the reimbursement prior to borrowing, so that the Town would need to borrow less. Ms. Driscoll noted that the Town would know the status of the grant in November.

Mr. Stumpf expressed concern over adding extra principal and interest payments to the budget if the grant were not to be approved. There was a brief discussion.

Peggy Kruse moved and Cindy Milne seconded to recommend approval of Article 55 as written. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Mr. Howe reported to Committee members the discussion on the Town Yard articles at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting in the 3rd Floor Conference Room. He stated that he had reiterated to the Board the Finance Committee's position that while there was concern over the financials of the project and that alternative options should be investigated; there was agreement among the Finance Committee with the selection of the Dascomb Road site as well as the need for a new Town Yard. Mr. Howe told Committee members that he expected the Board of Selectmen to withdraw Articles 28 & 29.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS – Article 7

At 8:20 P.M. the Finance Committee joined the Board of Selectmen to discuss Article 7. The Finance Committee reconvened this meeting at 8:45 P.M. Discussion continued on In District and Out-of-District SPED costs.

YOUTH SERVICES ARTICLE 35

Ms. Marden informed Committee members of the possibility that Article 35 could be moved at Town Meeting and suggested that the Committee be prepared with a position.

Dick Howe moved and Mary O'Donoghue seconded to recommend disapproval of Article 35. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

ARTICLE 5 - CIP

Mary O'Donoghue moved and Paul Fortier seconded to recommend approval of the \$1,246,000 School and Town budget number based upon last year's October Special Town Meeting allocation. The amount to be allocated at \$725,600 for Town Projects and \$520,400 for School Projects. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 28, 2010
Town Meeting
Roger J. Collins Field House
6:15 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Lynch
Recording Secretary